

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-01 SSM-03
DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. BROWN (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
-----250029 034785 /61

O 242344Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 24

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 24,
1977:

Q. YESTERDAY THE PRESIDENT SAID THIS COUNTRY WAS CULPABLE
OR OPEN TO CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE OF THE
RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AROUND THIS COUNTRY.
I PRESUME HE WAS TALKING ABOUT FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND
NORTH KOREANS, THE PLO AND SO ON.

DOES THE DEPARTMENT TAKE HIS REMARKS AS AN INSTRUCTION
TO BEGIN LOOKING TOWARD A REVISION OF THOSE RULES ON
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MOVEMENT? HAVE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS BEEN GIVEN TO THE
DEPARTMENT?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THIS SPECIFICALLY, BUT IT IS
MY IMPRESSION, AND I THINK I WOULD HAVE TO GO ON BACKGROUND
ON THIS, THAT THE RULES REGARDING -- I THINK THE
PRESIDENT WAS REFERRING TO ENTRY, WAS HE NOT, IN THE
UNITED STATES?

Q. MOVEMENT AROUND THE COUNTRY. THEN HE TALKED ABOUT
ADMISSION TO THIS COUNTRY -- PEOPLE WE DISAGREE WITH.

A. WITH REGARD TO ADMISSION, ON BACKGROUND, IT IS MY
UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO
A REVIEW ON THE SUBJECT.

NOW, WITH REGARD TO TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY, I PRESUME
THAT WOULD HAVE TO REFER TO DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. I WOULD
HAVE TO CHECK THAT PARTICULAR POINT AS TO WHAT THE STATE

OF PLAY ON REVIEW IS.

Q. WAIT A MINUTE. YOU SAID THEY ARE CONSIDERING A REVIEW OF THIS?

A. YES. THIS IS ON BACKGROUND.

Q. SO, YOU ARE SAYING THEY HAVEN'T EVEN REVIEWED YET, THEY ARE JUST CONSIDERING WHETHER THEY SHOULD REVIEW?

A. LET US SAY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO A REVIEW OF THE ENTRY PROCEDURES.

Q. ON THAT POINT, EXCUSE ME, BEFORE WE JUMP AWAY FROM IT.

A. YES.

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Q. IT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING MODIFICATION OF THE MC CARRAN WATER ACT. ARE YOU REFERRING NOW TO SOMETHING --

A. NO. I DO NOT THINK IT -- STILL ON BACKGROUND, I DO NOT THINK IT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM THIS PODIUM. I HAVE TAKEN THE QUESTION A COUPLE OF TIMES AND THAT IS WHY I AM ON BACKGROUND SAYING THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO REVIEW, BUT I AM NOT PREPARED TO COME OUT AND ANSWER THAT QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

Q. THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO CLARIFY. WE HAVE REPORTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO SEEK REVIEW OF THE MC CARRAN WATER ACT. WHAT I AM TRYING TO GET AT HERE: WHEN YOU SPEAK OF A "REVIEW," ARE YOU SPEAKING OF SOME ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES? IN OTHER WORDS --

A. NO. IF BY "ADMINISTRATIVE" YOU MEAN, SHALL WE SAY, ROUTINE, NO. I THINK THE POLICY IS BEING LOOKED AT. SO,

IT IS MORE THAN ADMINISTRATIVE.

Q. THAT IS NOT WHAT I AM ASKING.

A. WHAT ARE YOU ASKING THEN?

Q. WHAT I AM ASKING IS: IS THERE ANY VIEW IN THE DEPARTMENT THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INTERPRETATION RATHER THAN CHANGE OF LEGISLATION?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT, BUT

AGAIN ON BACKGROUND SINCE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A LAW, I WOULD PRESUME AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAW WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE CONGRESS ON ANY KIND OF CHANGE WITH REGARD TO ENTRY PROCEDURES.

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Q. ANOTHER SUBJECT.

A. YES. OFF BACKGROUND.

Q. COULD YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE STATUS OF OIL EXPLORATION IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO IN THE LAST FEW DAYS? SPECIFICALLY, IS AMOCO NOW ALLOWED TO DRILL ON ITS LEASED SITES, AND ARE THE ISRAELIS STILL EXPLORING IN AREAS WHERE WE HAVE ASKED THEM NOT TO?

A. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF OIL, THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THIS MATTER IN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND I CANNOT GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THOSE DISCUSSION. NOW, WITH REGARD TO THE AMOCO SITUATION, I BELIEVE THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN SETTLED SATISFACTORILY. I HAVE NO DETAILS FOR YOU, BUT MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE AMOCO RIG IN QUESTION IS OPERATING WITHOUT DIFFICULTY IN THE GULF. I HAVE REALLY NOTHING BEYOND THAT.

Q. COULD YOU GET SOME MORE DETAILS ON THAT OR ARE THEY AVAILABLE TO US?

A. I WILL TRY TO, BUT I DO NOT THINK I AM GOING TO GET MANY DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE OTHER LEADERS.

Q. JUST THE CHRONOLOGY OF WHEN THE AMOCO RIG WENT BACK INTO OPERATION.

A. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN GET, BUT, AS I SAY, I DO NOT THINK I WILL GET MUCH MORE IN THE WAY OF DETAILS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE ISRAELI RIG, THE DRILLING? IS THAT STILL GOING ON?

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A. ALL I HAVE ON THAT IS THAT THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED.

Q. JUST TO BE CLEAR, IS THIS AMOCO RIG OPERATING ON BEHALF OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE?

A. I BELIEVE THAT IS THE AMOCO RIG BEING REFERRED TO, YES. THE QUESTION OF THE PLACEMENT OF THE ANCHOR.

Q. IS THE ANCHOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE?

A. YES. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. MR. BROWN, SINCE THIS IS AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION WHY CAN'T WE GET THE DETAILS OF WHAT THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED ON HIS RECENT TRIP, SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE OIL RIGS IN THE GULF?

A. IT IS NOT POLICY TO HAND OUT DETAILS OF DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS.

Q. THAT IS THE POLICY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION?

A. THAT IS THE GENERAL POLICY OF MOST ADMINISTRATIONS, ALL OF THEM, AS A MATTER OF FACT. I DO NOT THINK THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THAT REGARD.

Q. SO, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS CONTINUING THE PAST POLICY?

A. I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT IN MOST ADMINISTRATIONS IN MOST COUNTRIES THE DETAILS OF DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT HANDED OUT.

Q. BUT, THIS IS THE UNITED STATES. I AM ASKING THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT. I AM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT CONCERNED WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

A. WE MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC EVERYTHING WE CAN, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ALL DETAILS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR

RELEASE. I THINK THAT IS COMMON SENSE -- AND COMMONLY ACCEPTED.

Q. ON THE NUCLEAR REACTORS -- YOU REMEMBER THEM -- WERE THEY DISCUSSED IN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE SALES?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THEM AT ALL.

Q. EVEN WHETHER THEY WERE DISCUSSED. I ASSUME THEY WERE.

A. THE LATEST I HAVE WAS CONTAINED IN THE SECRETARY'S -- I THINK IN TWO INTERVIEWS HE HAD BEFORE HE LEFT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST SAYING THAT THOSE QUESTIONS ARE UNDER REVIEW. NOW, WHETHER OR NOT HE DISCUSSED THEM SPECIFICALLY ON HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, I CANNOT TELL YOU. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. ALL RIGHT. I ASKED BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN ASKED. SO, COULD YOU TRY TO FIND OUT IF HE INDEED DISCUSSED THEM IN BOTH PLACES AND ANYTHING YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE ON THE RESULTS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS?

A. SURE. I WILL TRY TO GET SOMETHING ON THAT. BUT, AS I SAY, THE LATEST I HAVE HEARD IS JUST AS I HAVE RECOUNTED TO YOU.

Q. YES. THAT IS WHAT I WAS UP TO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: PFOR, SHUM
To: CAIRO TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec581fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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